

**Remarks**

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 and have cancelled Claims 3 and 7. Applicants respectfully submit no new matter has been added by the present amendment. Support for the amendment can be found generally throughout the Specification, including at page 1, lines 5-10, page 19, lines 5-18 and the Claims as originally filed.

**Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Becke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,695,678). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

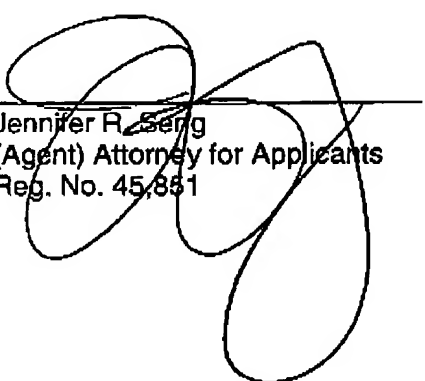
Applicants submit to anticipate a claim; the cited reference must teach each and every element of the claimed invention, either explicitly or inherently.

Applicants submit Becke et al. does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Becke et al. discloses a catalyst system based on monoazadiene metal complexes as defined by the formula therein. According to Becke et al. such catalyst systems are suitable for use in the polymerization of olefins and dienes.

Becke et al. does not disclose the elements of the present invention, namely a method for improving the aging characteristics of rubber mixtures comprising admixing one or more rubber monomers with the anti-aging agents as claimed in Claim 1 and a vulcanizing agent. Further Becke et al. does not disclose a rubber mixture comprising such anti-aging agents, rubber monomers and vulcanizing agents.

Therefore, Applicants submit Becke et al. fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention and accordingly Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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